Effect of global recession on future of SEZs

†1185. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a whether Government has made any assessment about the effect of global economic recession on the utilization and future of Special Economic Zones sanctioned in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government proposes to bring changes in the existing policy of Special Economic Zones;

(d) if so, the details of the changes that are proposed to be brought therein; and

(e) the total number of Special Economic Zones approved by the Government alongwith the total land area specified by the Government for establishing these sanctioned areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The impact of economic meltdown on the performance of SEZs cannot generally be ruled out. However, export from the SEZ during the financial year 2008-09 has been to the tune of Rs. 99,689 crores registering a growth of 50% over the export for the year 2007-08. The Development Commissioners and Approval Committee continuously monitor the operation of SEZs. Corrective steps are taken as and when required under the provisions of SEZ Act and Rules.

(e) In addition to the Seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, formal approvals have been accorded to 578 proposals out of which 323 SEZs have been notified. A total of 91 SEZs are operational. An investment of Rs. 1,08,903 crore has been made and direct employment for 3,87,439 persons have been generated in the SEZs. The total land area involved in notified SEZs is 39,060 hectare approximately.

Recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on FDI in Retail Trade

1186. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended a blanket ban on domestic corporate and foreign retailers from entering retail trade in grocery, foods and vegetables;

(b) whether Committee has also suggested putting in place a regulation 'National Shopping Mall Regulation Act' to protect the indigenous small retail supply change and setting up a National Commission to study the problems in the retail sector; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.